

Hands On Science Outreach (HOSO)

Goal: Supporting High-Quality Research

Summary:

HOSO is engaged in data collection and analysis of the following parts of its programming:

- 1) Children's learning as assessed by interpretation of research-prompted drawings
- 2) Participation data disaggregated by gender, ethnic background, age/grade, location, continuity
- 3) Adult Leader backgrounds, motivations and satisfaction (qualitative and quantitative)
- 4) Orientation effectiveness by open-ended question response to pre/post participation
- 5) Parent perception of children's participation: registration motivation, satisfaction, follow-up, family interaction (survey data)

Purpose:

To evaluate and monitor programming and to contribute to research on the impact of this enrichment experience on children, families and communities.

Accomplishment/Results:

- 1) Continued revisions of materials
- 2) Reports on data (available upon request)
- 3) Presentations and publications for professional organizations and journals (available upon request)

Plans for the next 12 months:

- 1) Continue with ongoing data collection, analysis and reporting
- 2) If funding is available, begin a retrospective study using old registration records to contact and interview adults who took HOSO as children. Also interview Adult Leaders for the impact of HOSO group leadership on their lives. This could help us assess the "public understanding of science" component of our work as well as the career awareness. Preliminary data does indicate that our program is used as a testing ground for teaching as a career, both initial and mid-career change options.